

**From:**

[Onkar Bindra](#)

**To:**

[Tom Adams](#)

**Date:**

Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:11:49 PM

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Feb . 4, 2015

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the IQC , and Dr. Tom Adams,

Greetings!

Survey of World Religions is a grade-9 Elective in History- Social Science since 1987. However, it is not a popular course. In fact, very few high schools offer it and very few students take it.

On the other hand, the Modesto City Schools ' "World Geography-World Religion", course started in 1999, is very popular and has proved very useful in increasing tolerance and minimizing bullying,

Students learn character traits of courage, honesty, loyalty, respect, responsibility, civility, compassion, initiative and perseverance; they read brief biography of William Rogers, First Amendment, common grounds , guidelines for teaching world religions, listening with care; students learn tips for effective communication and are taught how to make comments without hurting feelings of others.

The class examines the geographic location, history, culture, and major beliefs of Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

**WORLD RELIGIONS:** includes

Unit I: Introduction -1-2 week

Unit II: Eastern Religions : Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism -1 week each

Unit III: Western Religions -Judaism, Christianity and Islam - 1 week each

**RESOURCES:** Each world religions' teacher is given: one copy of each of the following :

World Religions -Gabriel Arquilevich -Teacher Created Materials;

The Usborne Encyclopedia of World Religions;

Cambridge Educational Videos on Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Sikhism

Whereas, ACR 154 (Gray, 2014) has applauded the effort of the Modesto City School District, and recommends its consideration for adoption throughout California. In the light of the above, you are requested to examine the possibility of using it or its components.

Sincerely,

Onkar S. Bindra. Ph.D.

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